



For God and Country

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N.W. ★ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-2847 ★
(202) 861-2700 ★ FAX (202) 861-2728 ★

May 4, 2010

The Honorable Ike Skelton, Chair
Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Skelton:

The American Legion fully supports the provision offered by your colleague, Representative Geoff Davis, for inclusion in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. The purpose of the provision would be to provide equity to members of the Reserve Components for the calculation of disability retirement pay for service members who are wounded in action.

The inequity under current law results because a Reservist/National Guard member may only get credit for the time actually spent in uniform in the computation of disability retirement pay. For instance, a service member who has spent 13 years in the Reserves may have only four years of service when his duty days are calculated. As a result, the Reservist may receive less disability retirement pay than his or her active-duty counterpart. Even if two personnel receive identical wounds from the same firefight in Iraq or Afghanistan, the Reservist may still receive less disability retirement pay.

Representative Davis' provision would eliminate this inequity between active and Reserve personnel. Any Reservist who earned the Purple Heart for wounds incurred in battle and who was medically retired as a result of that action would have his or her disability retirement pay calculated based on the total number of years served in the Armed Forces. This provision was included in the NDAA passed by the House in FYs 2007 and 2009. A 2010 Congressional Budget Office score indicates the provision would cost less than \$500,000 in FY 2011 and \$11 million over ten years.

I strongly request your support for this long overdue provision in support of the Reserve Components. Thank you for your service and consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Philip D. Riley, Director
National Security/Foreign Relations Division



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May 4, 2010

The Honorable Susan Davis, Chair
Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Armed Services Committee
2340 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Davis:

The American Legion fully supports the provision offered by your colleague, Representative Geoff Davis, for inclusion in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. The purpose of the provision would be to provide equity to members of the Reserve Components for the calculation of disability retirement pay for service members who are wounded in action.

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May 4, 2010

The Honorable Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon, Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McKeon:

The American Legion fully supports the provision offered by your colleague, Representative Geoff Davis, for inclusion in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. The purpose of the provision would be to provide equity to members of the Reserve Components for the calculation of disability retirement pay for service members who are wounded in action.

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May 4, 2010

The Honorable Joe Wilson, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Armed Services Committee
2340 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wilson:

The American Legion fully supports the provision offered by your colleague, Representative Geoff Davis, for inclusion in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. The purpose of the provision would be to provide equity to members of the Reserve Components for the calculation of disability retirement pay for service members who are wounded in action.

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